

## GOMPERS SEES PERIL TO LABOR IN SEDITION BILL

Condemns It as 'Autocratic, Imperialistic and Un-American.'

SAYS SPEECH IS MUZZLED

Also Asserts That Censorship Over the Entire Press Is Perpetuated.

Special Despatch to The Sun.  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Seeing in the Sterling-Graham peace time sedition bill a grave menace to organized labor and to a free press as well as free speech, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, asserted in a public statement to-night that enactment of the measure would bring a reign of terror over the United States. He calls upon every labor man and patriot to defeat the measure as one assailing the Magna Charta, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

In a bill of particulars, Mr. Gompers says the measure would prevent strikes, advocacy of Constitutional amendment, or organization of negro workers. He said:

"The American Federation of Labor will oppose with whatever power it may possess the pending Sterling-Graham peace time sedition bill. The proposed bill, if enacted, would violate the Constitution and rob the most cherished and basic guarantees of free government. "Alfred Bettman of Cincinnati, special Assistant Attorney-General of the United States, who had charge of sedition cases during the war, declares this bill is 'contrary to the fundamental principles of American and Anglo-Saxon institutions, and if enacted will place upon the American statute books a Prussian and Czaristic Russian institution.'"

An Autocratic Censorship.

"If the American people, and in fact a majority of the members of Congress, were awake to the dangers concealed in this bill a storm of indignation would sweep the nation. It has been widely advertised that this measure protects free speech fully, but prevents advocacy of forcible revolution, Bolshevism and anarchy. In fact, it would perpetuate an autocratic censorship over the entire American press. It can be used to kill free speech and free assembly. It strikes a deadly blow at legitimate organizations of labor or any other progressive movement for the betterment of the masses which may be opposed by the advocates of privilege and reaction."

"We yield to no man, in public office or out, in our loyalty to the Constitution and institutions of this republic; no self-respecting man has questioned or dared question that loyalty. We are for evolution, not revolution; for ballots, not bullets; for a majority rule, not class dictatorship of Bolshevism, plutocracy or of the profiteer. We oppose this bill because every legitimate purpose for which it is framed is already covered by existing law. Its illegitimate features, which compose two-thirds of the draft, are utterly autocratic, imperialistic and un-American."

"The supreme danger of this bill lies in its vagueness and in the manner in which it may be administered; and to bring home these perils to liberty, I submit the following bill of particulars, which illustrates but in small part what may actually happen."

Covered by Existing Code.

"Passing over sections one to four because they are covered by the existing penal code, let us refer to Attorney-General Palmer's contention that new laws are necessary to reach the 'individual who advocates opposition to the Government by violence.' Then what is the meaning of section 4 of the penal code, which reads:

"Whoever incites, sets on foot, assists, or engages in any conspiracy to overthrow, to resist, or to obstruct the authority of the United States, or the laws thereof, or gives aid or comfort thereto, shall be imprisoned not more than ten years, or fined not more than \$10,000, or both."

"If revolution is afoot, why has not the Department of Justice made prosecutions under this section?"

"Section 5 of the bill, unbelievable as it may seem, may be easily construed to mean, if indeed it does not make it a crime, so vague and involved is the terminology, to wear in public any button of an organization whose purpose it is to secure an amendment to the Constitution of the United States or any existing Federal law."

"Section 6 perpetuates the censorship of the Postmaster-General over all newspapers and printed matter. The so-called Borah amendment, providing a court review of the Postmaster-General, makes an attempt to curtail the censor's action, is sound in principle but is inadequate to afford protection as a practical matter to a publisher against the autocratic action of the Postmaster-General. More amazing still, the proviso sets up a censorship over any man's private correspondence by the Postmaster-General. It would be criminal, for example, for a man to send a letter advocating resistance to an injunction issued by a Federal Judge ordering workers on strike to go back to work. Moreover this section can be used to prevent the organization of colored labor on the grounds of inciting racial prejudice the intended or probable result of which appeal is to cause rioting, etc. No doubt advocacy of, or opposition to, the cause of Irish freedom would in some sections be prohibited."

Would Exclude Labor Literature.  
"Section 7 would exclude from this country, even for libraries and investigators, a large portion of the labor literature of Europe."

"Sections 9, 10 and 11 contain a grave threat aimed at labor. Section 9 makes unlawful every association which seeks 'directly or indirectly' to make political change by injury to private property. It is unshapely true that even a legitimate strike may result in indirect injury to the employers' private property right in his business. The recent steel and coal strikes were both falsely heralded as attempts to overthrow our government. If a hostile Federal Judge should decide that any particular strike was a political end in view and the

striking union is 'affiliated with' the American Federation of Labor, the A. F. of L. would be compelled at once to expel the striking union or itself become unlawful. And it would at once become a crime punishable by up to twenty years imprisonment or up to \$20,000 fine, or both, for any person anywhere in the nation to rent a hall or business office to any labor organization affiliated with the A. F. of L. or to give or loan it money to send strike relief to starving women and children."

"In general this is a bill against opinion and advocacy. It proposes to set up not a government of law, but of men, because under its vague and sweeping terms no man would know what the law is until the Federal Judges interpret its meaning. For example, the whole spirit and context of the bill would indicate that the prohibition of 'force' is intended to include industrial activity and is an inhibition of strikes."

"The inevitable result of this bill, if enacted, would be to spread a reign of terror over the United States, fill the country with spies and special agents of the Department of Justice, fill the land with suspicion, and hereby hunting would quickly become a national industry. American citizens who love liberty and love America cannot stand idly by and permit this legislation to be enacted. Unless we oppose it our children and our children's children will regard us as cowards and traitors, faithless to the heritage of our fathers and the struggles of the human race for liberty. If the principles of Magna Charta and the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States are not worth fighting to preserve, I have wholly misconceived what patriotism and love of freedom means."

## WAR SECRETS SENT TO MEXICO BY WIRE

Senators Hear U. S. Army Officer Exposed Leak.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Jan. 18.—Testimony will be taken this week by the Senate sub-committee investigating the Mexican situation. More than a hundred persons have not testified and a reclassification of their information was made to-day so that those whose testimony is expected to be merely corroborative may file their statements.

Information which will be presented will show, according to Senator Marcus Smith (Ariz.), a Mexican controlled wire into Mexico which was used during the war for transmitting American military information. An American officer who suspected the use to which it was being put made the exposure.

A message which it was believed the Mexican official who directed the American end of the wire would be interested in was sent over the American military wire. A few minutes later the same message was taken from the Mexican wire by men who had been listening in at the orders of the American officer.

## CHICAGO \$20,000,000 HOTEL PROJECT OFF

Special Despatch to The Sun.

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—Hotel men and real estate brokers in Chicago for the last week have been trying to ascertain the identity of the Chicago millionaire who forfeited \$50,000 which he had deposited with the First Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago in payment of a three months option on the block of property on Michigan Boulevard between Seventh and Eighth streets, owned by the Otto Young estate, and which is declared by foremost hotel men as the ideal site for America's largest hotel.

Louis Holst, vice-president of the bank and also trustee officer for the estate of Young, refused to reveal the identity of the millionaire who called for the erection of America's largest and most fashionable hotel. It was to have cost \$20,000,000 to build.

"The property alone is valued at \$4,350,000. It was too bad that the \$20,000,000 could not be raised so that the project could have been added to Chicago's other large institutions."

## SWITZERLAND ALSO SUFFERS.

Influenza and Sleeping Sickness Claim Victims.

BERN, Jan. 18.—Spanish influenza and sleeping sickness have been reported from several localities in Switzerland. Numerous deaths from influenza are said to have occurred in the Voralberg region, where 300 cases of the disease have been reported.

Near Coppet two daughters of a teacher named Guignard suffered from what was diagnosed as sleeping sickness. One of the patients died.

## \$500,000 FIRE IN CALGARY.

Two Hotels Destroyed and Two Men Suffocated.

CALGARY, Alta., Jan. 18.—Two men were suffocated, five firemen were more or less seriously injured and a loss was sustained of almost \$500,000 in a fire that destroyed the Empire Hotel, the Grand Central Hotel and three stores here early to-day.

The remainder of the more than 100 guests in the two hotels escaped in their night clothes in the bitter cold weather.



Lamps of many kinds, \$10 to \$200

IF it is true that the stars are the lamps of the heavens, it is also true that a well chosen lamp lends a touch of the heavens to the home. At Ovington's a wide selection awaits you at very attractive prices.

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"The Gift Shop of Fifth Ave."  
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Women's

## New Camel's Hair Polo Coats at \$69.50



The smartest of all Sports Coats for early Spring, beautifully developed in soft, silky Camel's Hair Polo Cloth of the finest quality.

Belted and Semi-Belted Styles

as pictured, in new shades of Natural, Beaver, Rose, Tan, Grey and Blue Bird. Each coat handsomely lined with novelty silks. Sizes 34 to 46.

## Women's Winter Coats

in the most successful materials, strictly  
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## Liberally Reduced

\$59.50 to \$69.50 Coats	Now	\$39.50
\$75.00 to \$95.00 Coats	Now	\$58.00
\$95.00 to \$125.00 Coats	Now	\$75.00
\$129.00 to \$150.00 Coats	Now	\$95.00
\$195.00 to \$250.00 Coats	Now	\$125.00
\$225.00 to \$295.00 Coats	Now	\$150.00

None Sent C.O.D., Exchanged or On Approval

Individual Fittings of

## The New Binner Corsets

will be given this week in the  
Saks Corset Department by Miss  
Burleigh, Expert Binner Corsetier.

Miss Burleigh is one of the most able Corsetieres in America, and her advice will prove highly valuable in the selection of your new Corset. Let Miss Burleigh explain to you the many exclusive features of Binner Corsets and help you in the choice of a Corset especially suited to your requirements.

Appointments may be made either  
by telephone or mail

Third Floor.

Monday—On the Third Floor

## Sale of Silk Petticoats

of a quality veru seldom seen

At \$7.95

To select one of these beautiful petticoats will mean that you have secured the best value in a high grade silk petticoat it has been our privilege to present. Tucked flounce model, finished with tiny ruffle, made of excellent quality radium silk or satin.

Also—A Limited Quantity of

## Smart Petticoats at \$3

Splendid value. Heatherbloom top petticoats with Taffeta flounces, in all the most successful street shades.

Extra sizes

in the same model, until present assortment is depleted. Special } \$4

## Flowered Sateen Petticoats Special, \$1.45

Fashioned of black sateen, with pink floral design. Tucked and ruffled flounce model. Splendid values—make your selections early.

Third Floor.

Women's

## Handsome Fur Coats, Scarfs and Sets

At Substantial Savings

The present scarcity of every kind of pelt is a fore indication of much higher prices for all kinds of garments next season. The handsome Fur Coats, Scarfs and Muffs offered at the following very special prices mean a

Saving of at least 30% on  
Present Retail Values

to say nothing of the savings on next season's prices. You cannot do better than buy your furs now!

Squirrel Sport Coats	Now only	\$275
Natural Black Muskrat Coats	Now only	\$215
Natural Black Muskrat Coats with Skunk Collar and Cuffs	Now only	\$295
Hudson Seal Coats, 30-inch model	Now only	\$275
French Seal Coats, with large Cuffs and Collar of Beaver, Skunk or Squirrel	Now only	\$265
Hudson Seal Coats, with large Beaver or Skunk Collar and Cuffs	Now only	\$345
French Seal Coats	Now only	\$135

Skunk Scarfs	Reg. \$65	Now \$49.50
Beaver Scarfs	Reg. \$65	Now \$47.50
Squirrel Scarfs	Reg. \$50	Now \$40.00
Fox Sets	Reg. \$75	Now \$45.00
Wolf Sets	Reg. \$135	Now \$105.00
Wolf Scarfs	Reg. \$45	Now \$27.50

Muffs to match at correspondingly low prices!  
Sixth Floor.

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## Higher-Cost Winter Frocks Today

At Much Below Regular

Just one of a kind left, but all are  
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\$135 and \$150 Frocks	Now	\$89.50
\$69.50 Frocks	Now	\$49.50
\$59.50 Frocks	Now	\$39.50

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Women's

## Chiffon Taffeta Frocks

as pictured

At \$35

Simple, yet very smart frocks, with the new short sleeves and modish two-tier skirt, reproducing with marked fidelity all the charm and originality of a much costlier import.

Developed in a soft, lustrous taffeta, that will give excellent service. To be had in

Navy Blue, Brown, Copenhagen Blue, and Black. Sizes 34 to 42



For Immediate Wear and Early Spring

Women's

## Ultra-Smart Tailleur Suits

Very Special

At \$49.50

Advance Spring model suits of rare charm, developed in materials suitable for immediate wear.

Some are severely tailored, others demi-tailleur, and many are in stunning belted effects.

Tailored with much care in Yalama Cloth, and soft Velours, in every fashionable shade.

Seldom equaled at \$49.50

Monday Only—

## Brassieres and Bandeaux

Regularly \$2.50 to \$7

At \$1.25, 2.00 and 2.50

Incomplete sizes. Dainty, beautifully made Brassieres and Bandeaux, produced in Satin, Pussy Willow Silk, Muslin, and Crepe de Chine, prettily trimmed with lace. Third Floor.

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## Hand-Made French-Voile and Batiste Blouses

and will place them  
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At \$6.95  
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One of the largest collections of real hand-made Blouses to be seen in the city, in a wide range of very clever styles. Every stitch in each model has been worked by hand, giving to them an individuality and finish equaled only by very costly imported hand-made Blouses. Made of filmy French Voiles and Batiste, elaborated with



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